# PREFACE

THIS work *s intended as a contribution towards the settlement of a discussion of long standing, which is now once again to the fore. It is alleged by modern anti-Semites (in order to justify a prejudice which, in these ostensibly tolerant times, they hesitate to base on theological grounds) that the Jew is essentially a middleman, ^ll0 has Produced nothing: that he is an alien excrescence on European life: and that the influence which he h^s liad on weste™ culture, during the past two thousand years, has been entirely negative, if not deleterious. Such a critic is^ demands an analysis based not on theory but on fact: and this is what I have endeavoured to Provide. *I* have set out to write this book as objectively as possible. I am making no attempt to evaluate the Jewish genius, or even to decide whether such a thing exists. Perhaps, on the basis of the material collected in tbis volume, it may be possible to come to some conclusion "upon these problems in future. My task has been .a comPa*'atively simple, if laborious, one. I have tried to assemble and set down in this volume a repr̥esentative selection (at least) of the con-tributions made to the civilisation, the culture and the amenities of the western world by persons of Jewish lineage. The common qualities, and the philosophical implications, of those contributions, I leave others to investigate. .

There has been m tjlis no question of a theological test of any s°rt* To~day (as has been indicated), the

assault upon *ke Jew is ^ade on "racial", not religions